



FAQs

Safety, Health, and Welfare at
Work | Certificate

Many thanks for your interest in the Certificate in Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work (CSHWW) at Adult Continuing Education, UCC.

Course level, duration and timetable

The Certificate is a 1 year (Sept to May), NFQ Level 7, fully online, part-time course. Lectures are on Wednesday evenings from 6.30-9.30 PM, and there are Saturday sessions approximately every 3 weeks from 10.00-16.00. The timetable may change for 2026/27 and will be finalised in August.

How is the course delivered? Will I have to attend in person?

This course is fully online. Attendance in person at UCC is not required or offered. You do have access to UCC services though – including the UCC Library (both in person and online), the Mardyke Arena, the Skills Centre, UCC Clubs and Societies, and UCC Career Services (who have excellent online resources well worth checking out).

How do I know if I will be accepted onto the course?

Please see Requirements on the website. If you meet the entry requirements and can demonstrate that in your application, you should be accepted. If you have any questions, email mhorajska@ucc.ie

Who is this course accredited by?

The programme is jointly accredited by UCC and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) which is the largest health and safety membership organisation in the world and the only Chartered body for health and safety professionals. Students can apply for student membership from IOSH upon enrolment and meet the academic requirements for technical membership upon successful completion of the programme. Once you have started the programme, the course administrator will email you a letter which confirms you are a student on the course. This letter can be used to join IOSH. The letter will be emailed to your UCC email account (Umail).

It's been a while since I studied. Are there supports available to help me?

es, you will have access to a range of supports including UCC Skills Centre, who offer online workshops specifically for adult learners returning to education to help you develop new skills and refresh old ones. They have significant resources on their website, most of which you can access before being a registered UCC student, so you could start preparing for your studies over the summer before classes start.

The lecturers are very experienced and recognise that many people completing this course haven't studied recently and teach the class accordingly. Our main aim on the course is to support you to be successful in your studies.

Often the area that students struggle with most is not the academic material, but with computer skills. You'll be required to use the internet to attend classes online and to research assignments, you'll need to use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint to write your

assignments, and you will attend lectures on Microsoft Teams. You will also use UCC's online learning platform Canvas. Support is available with these, but basic knowledge is essential.

All UCC students will have access to Office 365 which includes software such as Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint etc. once registered.

How do I apply?

Applicants may choose to apply via one of two available application routes:

1. Apply via Springboard+ as a funded applicant
2. Apply direct as a fee-paying/sponsored applicant

Those who apply directly will not be considered for Springboard+ funding.

Those who apply, but do not receive Springboard+ funding - they may choose to apply directly if there are available places remaining.

Springboard+ funded places are extremely limited. We receive an average of 4 times more applications than available places.

For a step-by-step, visual application guide, please email the programme coordinator.

What are the fees?

Course fees are €2,750. 50% of this fee is due on application. The remaining 50% is due by 31 January. The 50% paid on application will be refunded to you if you are not accepted onto the course, or if the course does not go ahead.

Can I pay in instalments, and is there any funding available from UCC?

Unfortunately, ACE is not in a position to accept fees paid in instalments. If you have concerns around fees, please see [this website](#), and [also this](#). ACE also offers scholarships to refugees and asylum seekers. More information on that is [available here](#).

My employer is going to pay my fees, how does that work?

If your fees are partially or fully covered by your organisation, this is considered a 'sponsored application'. You will be able to indicate that you are a sponsored applicant during the application process on UCC Apply. There are detailed Sponsorship Guides available for both applicants and sponsors, which should be read in advance of any application.

Where can I learn more about the course?

It is very important that you know this is the right course for you before you apply. The best way to find out is to read the module outlines. You will complete 6 modules on the course. Each module outline is linked below.

- [AD1074](#) Introduction to Health and Safety Legislation (5 credits)
- [AD1075](#) Introduction to Human Factors in Health & Safety (5 credits)
- [AD1076](#) Introduction to Risk & Safety Management (5 credits)
- [AD1077](#) Introduction to Occupational Health (5 credits)
- [AD1078](#) Introduction to Chemical Safety, Toxicology & Occupational Hygiene (5 credits)
- [AD1079](#) Introduction to Environmental Issues within Health & Safety (5 credits)

Will I have to do exams?

The course is wholly assessed via continuous assessment. See details related to assessments on the module outlines above (subject to change for 2026/27). Current assessments include essay, presentation, report, case studies. All are completed remotely.

What happens if I fail an assessment?

This doesn't happen often. We recognise that students on this programme are studying at Level 7 and assess according to the level. If you have been accepted onto the course, you are well able to complete it. However, if you fail, you will be offered an attempt to repeat the assessment in the summer. The coordinator will guide you through that if necessary.

Will I have a graduation?

Yes, and we'd love to see you here for it! (but it's not mandatory). Graduations are generally held in early November and are organised by the UCC Events team.

I am an international student. Will enrolling on this course allow me to apply for a student visa to study in Ireland?

This is a part-time, wholly online course, therefore participants may participate from anywhere in the world and are not eligible for a student visa to participate.

I don't know whether to do this course or the Higher Diploma in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work.

The [Certificate](#) in SHWW is one year, Level 7, and is fully online. The [Higher Diploma](#) in SHWW is two years, Level 8, and is a hybrid course (some Saturday sessions are in person on the UCC Campus).

Look at both websites and review the entry requirements to see which course matches your past education and experience.

Generally, the Certificate will meet criteria for an entry level HSS role. In some instances, students go in at this level and then get funding from their employer a bit further down the line to do the Higher Diploma.

Some start with the Cert and then go straight into the Higher Diploma. The Higher Diploma would be the level employers tend to look for when recruiting a HSS Officer. This is just general advice based on my experience of employers contacting me with job specifications to share with the classes, as all employers will have their own requirements.

I have more questions – who can I ask?

Please email mhorajska@ucc.ie